

Amendment to the Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. - 9. (Cancelled)

10. (Previously Presented) A method for separating-out of supplied items for the batching of these items in weight-determined groups, said batching method comprising:

a) performing a weight-determination of each item;
b) batching the items at a batch location in accordance with their weight and the weight of the items already placed at the batch location, or batching the items at the batch location as a combination of items available for the selection; and

c) transporting the items to respective receiving positions based upon weight-determined groups to achieve a predefined total weight at each receiving position,

wherein the transporting is performed by transport equipment which includes an associated control unit,

wherein the control unit arranges the allocation of the individual items to respective receiving positions of items from the different items at the batch location, and performs the selective control of the transport equipment, and

wherein the transport equipment includes at least two robots, each of which has a gripping element for the selective gripping of an item and direct transport of the item from a batch location to a selected receiving position.

11. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 10, wherein, in addition to a weight-determination, an item type-determination is performed, and the batching at a batch location and transporting to a receiving position also includes selective batching or positioning of arriving items into type-determined groups.

12. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 10, wherein the weight of an item or a weight-group determination of the items is performed by a weighing arrangement integrated with the gripping element for the weighing of the gripped and lifted items from the batch location.

13. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 10, wherein the weight determination of the items is performed by a "negative weighting" in which the items are supplied to a static weighing device at a supply position and the item weight is determined as a function of a weight reduction which takes place by the removal of the individual item from the supply position station.

14. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 11, wherein the transport equipment further employs vision equipment to perform the type-determination, at least one of the weight-determination and a position-determination of the items.

15. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 10, wherein the robot also performs a periodic cleaning procedure in an area of operation of the robot by gripping of a supply hose for water or other cleaning agent and spraying on relevant portions of the area of operation.

16. (Previously Presented). An apparatus for separating-out of supplied items for the batching of these items into weight-determined groups, by:

- a) performing a weight-determination of each item;
- b) batching the items at a batch location in accordance with their weight and the weight of the items already placed at the batch location, or batching the items at the batch location as a combination of items available for the selection; and
- c) transporting the items to respective receiving positions based upon weight-determined groups to achieve a predefined total weight at each receiving position,

said apparatus comprising:

- means for carrying out weight-determination of supplied items; and
- means for effecting a selective batching of the items in weight-determined groups which includes transport equipment,

wherein said transport equipment has an associated control unit which arranges the allocation of the individual items to respective receiving positions of items from the different items at the batch location, and performs the selective control of the transport equipment,

wherein its transport equipment includes a transfer arrangement including at least two robots in which each robot has a gripping element for the selective gripping of an item and direct transport of item from a batch location to a selected receiving position.

17. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 16, wherein said apparatus further comprises:

- means for performing a type-determination of the arriving items and
- means for effecting a selective batching of the items in ~~weigh-determination~~ weight-determined and type-determined groups.

18. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 16, wherein the weight of an item or a weight-group determination of the items is performed by a weighing arrangement integrated with the gripping element for the weighing of the gripped and lifted items from a supply location or the batch location.

19. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 16, wherein the means for carrying out a weight-determination includes a static weighing device at a supply position for the items such that the successive receipt of one or more items for accumulated weighing-in of the items enables an operative weight-determination

of a gripped and lifted-free item to be determined by the determination of the weight removed from the supply position by a gripping element.

20. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 16, wherein, in connection with a supply area for the items, a stop station is provided for the build-up of items in a closely-packed manner at the supply area, and wherein from the supply area a robot gripping element picks up items by a gripping activation in order to change the position of an item.

21. (New) A method for separating-out of supplied items for the batching of these items in weight-determined groups, said batching method comprising the steps of:

- a) weighing each item of an incoming supply of items;
- b) using a control unit to keep track of the weight and location of each item and
- c) using at least two robots, each of which is under the control of said control unit and each of which has a gripping element for the selective gripping of an item, to selectively grip and transfer each item from the supply of items to a receiving location in accordance with the weight of the items and the weight of items already transferred, or a combination of the items available for transfer, so as to produce batches of items of a predetermined weight or predetermined weight and type.

22. (New) The method according to claim 21, further comprising the step of performing an item type determination, and the production of batches includes selective positioning of arriving items into type-determined groups.

23. (New) The method according to claim 21, wherein said weighing is performed by a "negative weighting" in which the items are supplied to a static weighing device at a supply station and the item weight is determined as a function of

a weight reduction which takes place by the removal of the individual item from the supply station.

24. (New) The method according to claim 21, comprising the further step of employing vision equipment to perform at least one of a type-determination, weighing and position-determination of the items.

25. (New) The method according to claim 21, comprising the further step of using at least one of the robots to perform a periodic cleaning procedure in an area of operation of the robot by gripping of a supply hose for water or other cleaning agent and spraying the water or other cleaning agent on relevant areas of operation.

27. (New) The method according to claim 21, wherein said weighing is performed by a weighing arrangement integrated with the gripping element.

28. (New) The method according to claim 21, wherein a first of said robots transfers each item to a first receiving location in which the items are segregated in accordance with at least the weight of the item, and wherein a second of said robots transfers said items from said first receiving location to a second receiving location in which items are formed into said batches.

29. (New) The method according to claim 21, wherein each of said robots directly transfers each item from the incoming supply of items directly to a respective receiving location in which selected ones of said items are formed into said batches.

30. (New) The method according to claim 21, comprising the step of adjusting batch content by robotically retrieving an item transferred to one of the batches being formed to another of the batches being formed upon determination by the control unit that the item to be retrieved is better suited to formation of the other batch.

31. (New) An Apparatus for separating-out of supplied items for the batching of these items in weight-determined groups, said batching apparatus comprising:

- a) weighing means for weighing each item of an incoming supply of items;
- b) a control unit for keeping track of the weight and location of each item and

- c) at least two robots, each of which is under the control of said control unit and each of which has a gripping element for the selective gripping of an item, for selectively gripping and transferring each item from the supply of items to a receiving location in accordance with the weight of the items and the weight of items already transferred, or a combination of the items available for transfer, so as to produce batches of items of a predetermined weight or predetermined weight and type.

32. (New) The apparatus according to claim 31, wherein said apparatus further comprises means for performing a type-determination of the incoming items and wherein said control unit is operative for effecting a selective batching of the items in both weight-determined and type-determined groups.

33. (New) The apparatus according to claim 31, wherein the weighing means comprises a static weighing device at a supply station for the items for accumulated weighing-in of items and for enabling the determination of the weight of each item removed from the supply station by the gripping element of one of the robots by a reduction of the weight of items at the supply station due to the removal of the item.

34. (New) The apparatus according to claim 31, wherein said weighing means is a weighing arrangement integrated with the gripping element.

35. (New) The apparatus according to claim 31, wherein a first of said robots is adapted to selectively transfer each item to a first receiving location in which the items are segregated in accordance with at least the weight of the item, and wherein a second of said robots is adapted to selectively transfer said items from said first receiving location to a second receiving location in which items are formed into said batches.

36. (New) The apparatus according to claim 31, wherein each of said robots is adapted to directly transfer each item from the incoming supply of items directly to a respective receiving location in which selected ones of said items are formed into said batches.

37. (New) The apparatus according to claim 31, wherein said control unit is adapted to adjust batch content by causing a robotic to retrieve a item transferred to one of the batches being formed to another of the batches being formed upon determination by the control unit that the item to be retrieved is better suited to formation of the other batch.